

By: Solis

H.B. No. 3514

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to to an interim committee on higher education formula
3 funding.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that:

6 (1) it is vital to the economy of this state that all
7 areas of the state have access to quality higher education.

8 (2) it is in the interest of all citizens of this state
9 that a sufficiently funded higher education infrastructure exist
10 that affords its citizens opportunities to become educated and
11 productive members of the state's economy.

12 (3) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's
13 report on Closing the Gaps provides the state a blueprint for
14 meeting its current and future higher education needs.

15 SECTION 2. (a) An interim committee is established to study
16 higher education funding formulas. The interim committee is
17 composed of six members. The membership of the committee from each
18 chamber shall be representative of all geographic areas of the
19 state, who are appointed as follows:

20 (1) three members of the senate, appointed by the
21 lieutenant governor; and

22 (2) three members of the house of representatives,
23 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

24 (b) The committee members shall select a presiding officer

1 from among their membership and shall meet at the call of the
2 presiding officer.

3 (c) The committee shall:

4 (1) study the adequacy, availability, and equity of
5 higher education funding and its relationship to closing the gaps,
6 including factors such as per capita income, employment rate,
7 percentage age without college degrees, percentage of fall
8 enrollment growth and projected enrollment growth in the region
9 served.

10 (2) develop recommendations based on the study for
11 changes in higher education funding formulas that maximize the
12 states limited resources to promote a skilled and viable workforce
13 and to meet the needs of our diverse state economy.

14 (d) Not later than November 1, 2004, the committee shall
15 prepare a report describing its recommendations and shall deliver
16 the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the
17 house of representatives.

18 (e) The committee shall adopt rules to administer this
19 section.

20 (f) The committee is abolished and this section expires
21 September 1, 2005.

22 SECTION 3. Not later than November 1, 2003, the lieutenant
23 governor and speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
24 members to the interim committee as provided by Section 2 of this
25 Act.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.